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## Moynihan's mistake

Are our eyes playing tricks? Was that really Senator Daniel P. Moynihan (Dem., N.Y.) complaining about President Reagan's "profound mistake" in naming William Casey, his campaign director, as head of the Central Intelligence Agency? The New York Times reported last week that Moynihan blamed the president for appointing "the most political person in his campaign" to the nation's top intelligence post.

If that was a mistake, it was Moynihan's as much as the president's. Moynihan helped shove the nomination through the Senate Intelligence Committee last January with an extravagant endorsement of Casey. He told the committee "that were there more men such as William Casey in this nation, a president would have less difficulty filling his Cabinet or any other positions that a president might have to fill.... We have a man of the

greatest distinction."

Moynihan reminded the committee that Casey would be the president's senior intelligence adviser and manager of the intelligence community, in addition to running the CIA. Moynihan told the committee, "I believe — and I trust that this hearing will confirm that belief — that in Mr. Casey, the president-elect has found a man superbly well qualified to fulfill each of those responsibilities."

Now it has dawned on Moynihan that it was not such a hot idea to install the president's campaign chief as CIA director. The idea was no better last January when Moynihan was so fulsome in praise of Reagan's choice.

Honesty ought to have compelled Moynihan to remind voters that he shared responsibility for putting a political figure in such a sensitive intelligence position.